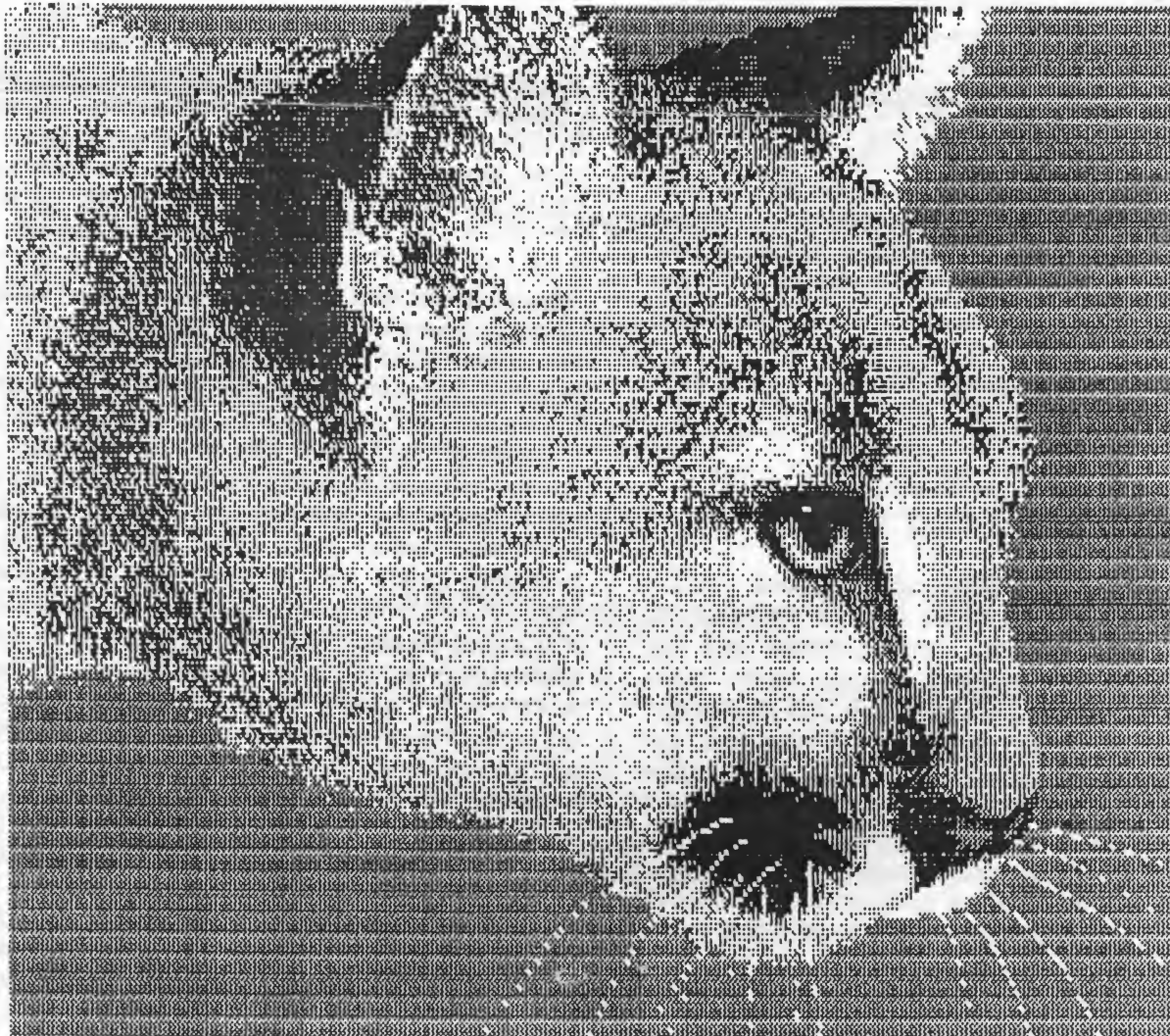


TWIN CITIES ATARI INTEREST GROUP

Next meeting : March 27th

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The TAIG Newsletter

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President Steve Ingalsbe 452-7196
Vice President Tom Green 521-5386
Treasurer Cory Johnson
Secretary Paul Franson
SysOp Ken Modeen
8-Bit DOM Chuck Grimsby

If you represent another Atari users group that wishes to exchange newsletters, please mail a copy of your newsletter to TAIG.

Articles should be submitted in standard text files such as Atari Writer, SpeedScript, Word Writer etc. Please save files in ASCII with NO text formatting codes. You can send the article to TAIG, drop it off at a meeting or upload it to the BBS.

Any storage media will be returned at the next meeting or mailed to you.

16 Bit DOM Jeff Gottstein
Membership Chairman :
Nathan Block 922-8012
BBS 425-2533
Newsletter Editors :
Tom Green / Cory Johnson

TAIG Membership Application

New____ Renewal____ Change____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State____ Zip Code_____ Phone_____

Type of computer_____

Interests_____

Membership dues are \$15 per family per year. Please make checks payable to the Twin Cities Atari Interest Group. Please do not mail cash. Mail to:

TAIG
PO Box 26128
Minneapolis, Mn. 55426

President's Notes By Steven Ingalsbe

I am sorry that I missed last month's meeting. I had to go to Arizona for business (Arizona in February? Totally radical idea). I want to thank Tom Green for running the meeting, and for putting together such a nice show. I would also like to thank Roger Dodger Music for the midi demo. It sounds like everybody had a real good time. If any of you members have ideas for demos or meeting themes, just let one of us know and we will see what we can do. We try to show the different facets of computing to show people that there is more to computers than games and word-processors.

I want to remind everybody that we are taking office nominations this month, and that the election will be next month (April). The current officers will not be running for re-election this year, so some new blood can take over and take TAIG to new heights. You MUST be a paid member in order to vote, so if you aren't a member, or if your membership is about to expire, please re-new. Quite a few people volunteered to run this year, and next month's newsletter will have a complete list for you to look over.

If you have been calling the BBS lately, you have probably seen me ranting over the current price of 256K DRAM chips. As of March 11, the price is hovering around \$10 each. That is \$80 a set! In January I was paying \$32 a set, and last summer I was paying \$24. American computer manufacturers will not be able to eat these chip increases, and you will soon see this increase in the end items (like 520 and 1040ST's). A 1040ST has 32 256K DRAM chips in it, which is \$320 at today's price; it's a good thing Atari buys large quantities and gets a price break. I don't know how much they pay, but the price increase ratio should be about the same for them as it is for us. In the last year, they have risen 500% in price! The days of cheap 256K upgrades for the XL/XE are over.

While in Arizona, I had a chance to hit some electronics parts houses. I need some parts for broken disk drives, and

Minneapolis is the pits for surplus parts. I quickly discovered that Atari is quite a bit more prominent there, than it is here. Every place I went had Atari stuff. At the parts houses, it was used 8-bit equipment, and at the computer stores, it was ST's. It seemed that everybody was happy with the Atari line. Then I went into a Federated Electronics store. Atari heaven. They had 4 racks of 8-bit software, one of 2600 carts, and a wall of ST software. They had a pyramid of 800XL's (new) that must of contained 100 computers. I got a chance to see the new double-sided disk drive, and the 80 column adapter. Both were impressive. The salesman told me that the XE-game system was selling very well, as were the 520ST mono-systems (they were on sale the day I stopped in).

I have 2 more quick items before I finish for this month. First, I have heard that Atari is offering a trade-in program for broken equipment. If you send in a 1050+some cash, they will send you a new drive (most likely a re-built). I will try to have the real poop on this at the meeting, including prices and mailing info. Second, I have heard the OSS had completed a new BASIC XL TOOLKIT before it was sold to ICD. This toolkit is suppose to give you all of the BASIC XE commands except one, the Extend command. I don't know if ICD got the rights to this, or if it is going to be marketed.

See you at the meeting; March 27 at 7 pm.-

Vice Presidential Ramblings By Tom Green

Hello there once again. A lot of things happened at the February meeting. First off the MIDI demo! I thought it was great. Mac from Roger Dodger really new the software he was working with and was able to explain the interactions between the computer and electronic musical instruments very well. Thanks again Mac. Thanks also to Greg Gibbons, Sue Loya, and Roger Hamilton for going to the trouble of bringing in the keyboards, drum machines and amplifiers etc.

Continued on next page

Then there were a few nominations. Now from my recollection and talking with people after the meeting, this is what we have. For president, Chuck Grimsby. For Vice president, we have Nathan Block and Eric Hopper. For Secretary, Sue Loy. For Treasurer, Ken Modeen. We also discussed changing the bylaws so that the treasurer would also take care of the membership. We won't be in office to see that change through, but I think all the current officers support that change. Ken is taking on an awful lot of the work load, maybe someone else would be interested in treasurer? Not to say Ken couldn't handle it, just that it I hate to see one person take on so much for no pay. Whatever, I'm just very happy to see all these people coming forward to take charge of the group. We will be taking any more nominations at the March meeting, and then the elections will be held at the April meeting.

We also need someone to take over the paper library from Carl Hartness who will quit in April. Chuck Grimsby quit doing the 8-bit DOM this month, someone approached me after the meeting and was thinking about taking that over. We will let you know.

One more month and I will go back to being a regular member of TAIG. All in all being the Vice President of the group for the last two years has been fun. A few rough spots but mostly good times. I will probably actually miss being the VP, but I don't think I will stop doing things for the group. I will help out in anyway I can, and of course will be doing the newsletter (as long as that is all right with the new officers.)

I will see you at the March meeting, where we will be discussing nothing in particular and everything in general.-

Book Review "The ATARI ASSEMBLER" By Ken Modeen

My business is seasonal, and the winter time is my slow season. I'm talking slow in a major way. When the first of January

comes around, I'm trying to think of things to keep me busy until march. Consequently, I do alot of reading and programming in the dead of winter. This winter I decided to dive into assembly language programming with both feet. Why? You might ask? Because many times in basic programming I have found that I could use a little (or alot for that matter) more speed. I also knew, that in many cases machine language can give a program that extra speed. Finding books on the subject is no problem. I buy books all year long as I run across them. I tuck them away in my computer library and usually never remember to look at them. But this winter by golly I was going to check them all out, Yep read em all, I was a man with a mission. I yanked nine books of the shelf, all dealing with Machine language. Some were ATARI, some were 6502 in general. I leaned back in my chair, interlaced my fingers, turned my hands inside out as I pushed my palms toward the ceiling and cracked my knuckles and said "yep ahh I gonna do it." I studiously began flipping through pages. "HMMMMM.... This book doesn't teach machine language, It assumes you know all about it before you pick it up". "Here's another one, Woooh! what's this? 'this english? The cover's in english, the book must be in english, oh well chuck it". "Ah, my Mac 65 manual. Yep, This might do. If I only had a magnifying glass, The print looks like something laying on the table of one of those it's a small world tourist attractions". "Lets see, "The 6502 Microprocessor General Applications and General Programming Techniques" . "Some general knowledge required". "Hmmm, sounds a little too general for me". "What's this one? "The ATARI ASSEMBLER" by Don and Kurt Inman. Well the 400 on the cover is a good sign. Yep it's in english! Let's see, use it with the ATARI ASSEMBLER EDITOR cartridge. I have one of those around in this pile somewhere. Let's try this book out....."I did read that book. Actually, I should say I interacted with that book and was very impressed with it. I say interacted, because every page is a session of "I'll show you, now you try it". At the end of each chapter is a summary and quiz for the reader.(Yep, you can cheat. The answers are in the back. My

kind of book.) I read every word in the book. I used the assembler when it wanted me to, as it wanted me to, and I was well rewarded for it. I learned a great deal about machine language compared to what I knew about machine language. I know little about machine language compared to what there is to know about it. But the point is, the book did a fine job introducing me to machine language and my assembler. It's an excellent book to start with and its very easy to follow. "the ATARI ASSEMBLER" did its job as far as I'm concerned. Now I'll look into some of my other books with the confidence that I can get past the first page. I have my own copy of "the ATARI ASSEMBLER", but there is a copy in the T.A.I.G. library if any member wishes to check it out.

»»Ken Modeen««

Cute Labels

Cute Labels is a collection of public domain utilities and icons that greatly enhance Broderbunds PrintShop program.

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Membership Report By Nathan Block

Well, I had to scratch many people in January. Hope I don't have to scratch YOU!! PLEASE send your renewals in. The following are up for March:

Jim Bergman
Cathy Johnson
Mary Lowe
Richard Mier
Bennett Porter
John Verlennich

Scott Forehand
Robert Kroll
Roger McNear
Kris Nelson
Darryl Tuttle

The following people have one more month of grace until their memberships expire:

Dale Erickson
Lawrence Haus
Earle Jackman
Steven Smith
Randy Yold

Roger Hamilton
Jim Hecker
Brian Reynolds
Terry Soderman
Ken Wong

Continued on next page

PLEASE renew. We need your support and we will hate to see you go. Now let's say hello to our NEW members!

Darrel, Benji Brosdahl
David, Kevin Saari
Martin Guldberg
Chad Rieschl
Robert Petersen

Welcome aboard! Now everyone please remember to sign up if you are interested for the Ballblazer tournament! Read all about it elsewhere in the newsletter!

Video Game Contest Report By Nathan Block

Well, well, well, do we have a whopper of a score this time! Jeremy Shand scored 81,600 on ATLANTIS! He is the winner and he will receive a dollar off a TAIG DOM of his choice. Congratulations Jeremy!!

My apologies for the lack of prizes, User

Friendly still has not sent over the gift certificates, soooo this will be the prize for a while. Eric Hopper and Greg Gibbons also get this prize.

Newsletter Editors Report

Here we are again with Fleet Street Publisher. I purchased Publishing Partner to make the newsletter, but after figuring the thing out and actually starting to put the newsletter together the program bombed 3 times, so I gave up on it. It's no fun watching 30 minutes of work go down the drain, so I went back to Fleet Street, which hasn't locked up on me since the first time I used it. Fleet Street (in my opinion) is much easier to use and more flexible and accurate.

The newsletter is smaller this month than in the last few months, but there is not much the editors can do about that. So you get what we got. All members are always invited to contribute to the newsletter.

That's about it for now, hope to see everyone at the meeting...

Ballblazer Tournament Information!

Some of you have inquired about the Ballblazer tournament. Well here is all the information. It will be held after the March meeting. Hopefully we will have two machines there. If you could supply a computer (48K), monitor and two joysticks, please let me know, it would be sincerely appreciated. I will be bringing two ATARI CX40 standard joysticks, if you have one that you are more comfortable with, PLEASE bring it!

So far I only have two people signed up, I hope I can get four more. Cost is \$1 to cover the expenses of the prize that will go to the winner, all extra proceeds will go to TAIG. I was planning to do more little competitions like this, but if the response is bad, then there is no use doing it. Notify me via EMAIL on the TAIG BBS or by phone if you can bring equipment or if you want to sign up.

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March Meeting Preview

By Tom Green

Nothing special has been planned for the March meeting. We have tried to leave plenty of time for general discussion concerning the future of the group. I'm sure the new officers will be interested to hear what the members would like to get from the club. This will be a good time to let them know.

We will be taking any more nominations for officers, and will probably discuss the upcoming elections in general. Please try to attend these meetings where the future of the club is decided.

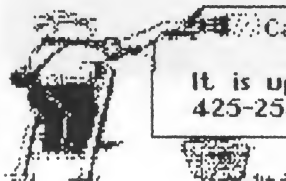
If anyone has anything they would like to demo please feel free to bring it in and we will give you the stage to do the demo.

Disks For Sale

TAIG has purchased a large number of 5.25" floppy disks. These blank disks will be sold in packages of 10 for \$4.00 per package with labels and write protect tabs.

These disks will be sold on a first come first serve basis. If you cannot attend the meetings send \$4.00 for each package, plus \$1.00 for postage to:

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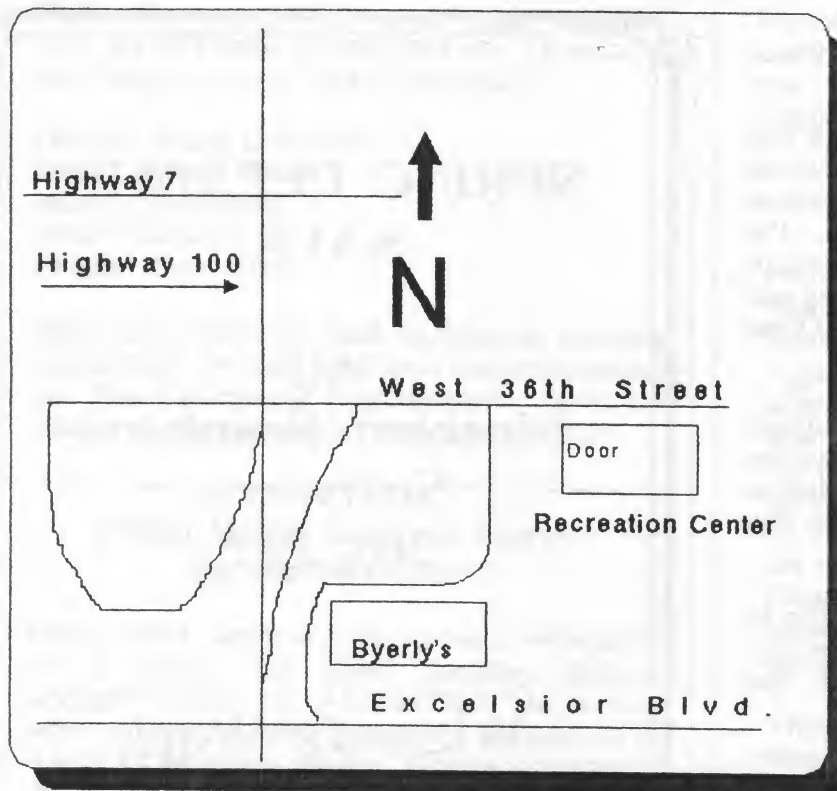
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TAIG holds it's monthly meetings at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center, which is located at 5005 West 36th Street in St. Louis Park. 3/4 mile east of highway 100 on west 36th, behind Byerly's.

Twin Cities Atari Interest Group
PO Box 26128
Minneapolis, Mn. 55426



Next TAIG Meeting :

Sunday March 27th at 7:00 pm at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center, 5005 West 36th Street in St. Louis Park. 3/4 mile east of Highway 100 on 36th Street.
Hope to see YOU there...

First Class